

Focus Area 16: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

Objective 16-10b targets the reduction in very low birth weight (VLBW, less than 1,500 grams) births to a rate of 0.9 per 100 live births (0.9 percent).

A total of 6,075 VLBW live births were reported in 2000, at a rate of 1.1 percent based on data extracted from the Birth Statistical Master Files (Figure 16-10b, Table 16-10b). A total of 6,054 VLBW births were reported at a rate of 1.1 percent in 2001, 6,127 in 2002 at a rate of 1.2 percent, and 6,344 in 2003 at a rate of 1.2 percent. California's VLBW birth rates are higher than the HP2010 objective, and are increasing away from the target.

Data by race-ethnicity show that the highest VLBW birth rates were found for African Americans/Blacks (2.8 percent in 2000, 2001, and 2002, and 2.7 in 2003) and for Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders (1.4 percent in 2000, 1.1 in 2001, 3.4 in 2002, and 3.6 in 2003). VLBW birth rates remained stable at 1.0 percent for both Whites and Asians, and at 1.1 percent for Hispanics/Latinos during the period 2000-2003. This HP2010 objective is not being achieved for any racial or ethnic group as of 2003.

Examined by age of the mother, VLBW birth rates were highest for those under 15 years (2.1 percent in 2000, 1.9 in 2001, and 2.8 in 2002, and 2.7 in 2003), followed by those aged 35 years and over (1.5 percent in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003). The HP2010 objective of 0.9 percent was not being achieved for any maternal age group as of 2003, although the 25-29 year age group had a VLBW birth rate of 0.9 percent in 2002.

No significant differences were found in VLBW birth rates for female and male infants across the time period 2000-2003, and their rates had reached parity (1.2 percent) in 2003.

For more information on very low birth weight (VLBW) in California, visit the Maternal and Child Health Branch Web site at:

<http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 16-10b please visit:

http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#_Toc494699661

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od16.htm#riskfactors>

Figure 16-10b
Very Low Birth Weight
California, 2000-2003

Healthy People 2010 objective = 0.9

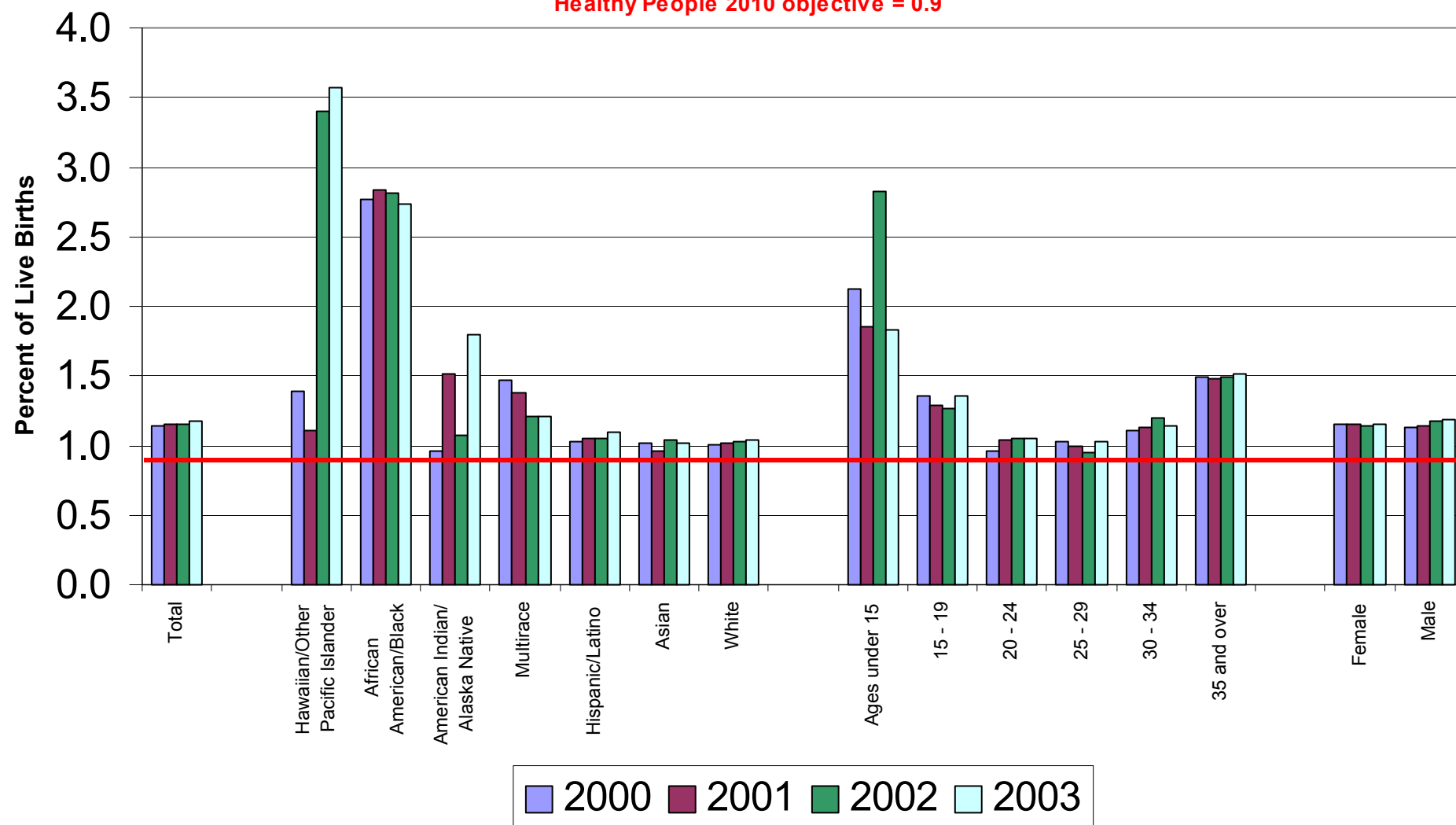


Table 16-10b
Very Low Birth Weight
California, 2000-2003

Very Low Birth Weight (VLBW)	2000					2001				
	VLBW ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.	VLBW ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target			0.9					0.9		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	6,075	531,285	1.1	1.1	1.2	6,054	527,371	1.1	1.1	1.2
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	896	32,302	2.8	2.6	3.0	878	30,965	2.8	2.7	3.0
American Indian/Alaska Native	19	1,975	1.0	0.5	1.4	30	1,986	1.5	1.0	2.0
Asian	602	58,876	1.0	0.9	1.1	554	57,443	1.0	0.9	1.0
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	33	2,376	1.4	0.9	1.9	26	2,355	1.1	0.7	1.5
Hispanic/Latino	2,655	257,958	1.0	1.0	1.1	2,751	260,996	1.1	1.0	1.1
White	1,699	168,233	1.0	1.0	1.1	1,657	163,777	1.0	1.0	1.1
Multirace	92	6,254	1.5	1.2	1.8	88	6,388	1.4	1.1	1.7
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	19	895	2.1	1.2	3.1	15	810	1.9	0.9	2.8
15 - 19	752	55,373	1.4	1.3	1.5	681	52,966	1.3	1.2	1.4
20 - 24	1,179	122,591	1.0	0.9	1.0	1,276	123,227	1.0	1.0	1.1
25 - 29	1,438	139,615	1.0	1.0	1.1	1,363	136,439	1.0	0.9	1.1
30 - 34	1,412	127,502	1.1	1.0	1.2	1,447	127,946	1.1	1.1	1.2
35 and over	1,275	85,309	1.5	1.4	1.6	1,272	85,983	1.5	1.4	1.6
Sex of Child										
Female	2,982	259,217	1.2	1.1	1.2	2,982	258,121	1.2	1.1	1.2
Male	3,089	272,061	1.1	1.1	1.2	3,068	269,237	1.1	1.1	1.2

Table 16-10b, continued
Very Low Birth Weight
California, 2000-2003

Very Low Birth Weight (VLBW)	2002					2003				
	VLBW ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.	VLBW ¹	Live Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target	0.9					0.9				
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	6,127	529,241	1.2	1.1	1.2	6,344	540,827	1.2	1.1	1.2
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	837	29,806	2.8	2.6	3.0	800	29,211	2.7	2.6	2.9
American Indian/Alaska Native	21	1,966	1.1	0.6	1.5	36	2,004	1.8	1.2	2.4
Asian	614	59,376	1.0	1.0	1.1	623	61,525	1.0	0.9	1.1
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	82	2,411	3.4	2.7	4.1	86	2,409	3.6	2.8	4.3
Hispanic/Latino	2,772	263,022	1.1	1.0	1.1	2,952	269,691	1.1	1.1	1.1
White	1,661	161,470	1.0	1.0	1.1	1,690	162,920	1.0	1.0	1.1
Multirace	82	6,813	1.2	0.9	1.5	86	7,112	1.2	1.0	1.5
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	21	743	2.8	1.6	4.0	13	710	1.8	0.8	2.8
15 - 19	634	50,200	1.3	1.2	1.4	670	49,330	1.4	1.3	1.5
20 - 24	1,299	123,056	1.1	1.0	1.1	1,302	123,815	1.1	1.0	1.1
25 - 29	1,300	137,236	0.9	0.9	1.0	1,438	140,556	1.0	1.0	1.1
30 - 34	1,565	130,367	1.2	1.1	1.3	1,532	134,809	1.1	1.1	1.2
35 and over	1,308	87,639	1.5	1.4	1.6	1,389	91,607	1.5	1.4	1.6
Sex of Child										
Female	2,961	258,855	1.1	1.1	1.2	3,040	263,882	1.2	1.1	1.2
Male	3,163	270,378	1.2	1.1	1.2	3,297	276,933	1.2	1.2	1.2

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2000-2003.

NOTES: ¹ Very low birth weight (VLBW) defined as live birth weighing less than 1,500 grams.

² Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths,

³ Rate per 100 live births (percent).